

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. The final Office Action of October 4, 2004 has been received and contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 1, and cancels claims 10, 11-14, 17-19 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 5-8 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12-14, 17-19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2; rejected claims 1-2, 5, 7-8, 10-13, 18-19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Moren et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,142,304); rejected claims 3 and 14 as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Moren et al.; rejected claims 6 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moren et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

With respect to the rejection of claims 12-14 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2, Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the amendments, the rejection is now believed to moot.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...an upper plate extending from an upper side of said first side wall and having a slit-shaped groove near either said first side wall or said second side wall for retaining the lamp wire, a length of the slit-shaped groove substantially parallel to said first and second side walls..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2, 3 and 5-8, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

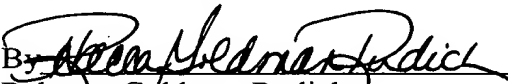
Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited

to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202): 496 - 7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: **December 29, 2004**

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Rebecca Goldman Rudich

Registration No.: 41,786

MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP

1900 K Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 496-7500

Attorney for Applicant

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